

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended)

An image capture system having an image capture unit for capturing image data representing an image, a display unit for displaying the image captured by the image capture unit, and a recording control unit for executing processing for recording the image data, which has been captured by the image capture unit, from a portable recording medium and processing for recording an image represented by the image data, which has been captured by the image capture unit, from a visible recording medium, said system comprising:

one or more a detachable input/output ~~unit~~ units that is able to capture the image data from the portable recording medium;

a hot-pluggable input/output interface to which one of the one or more ~~the~~ input/output ~~unit~~ units can be connected;

a command input unit for applying a use verification command which verifies use of the image capture unit;

a determination unit for determining upon payment by a user of a predetermined monetary value whether a desired input/output unit from the one or more input/output ~~unit~~ units has been connected to said input/output interface; and

a notification unit for giving notification to the user prior to the payment of the monetary value that one of the one or more input/output units can be added to the system and upon payment of the predetermined monetary value giving notification that input/output of the image by the desired input/output unit upon connection ~~connected~~ to said input/output interface is possible when the use verification command has been applied from said command input unit and

said determination unit has determined that the input/output unit has been connected, and for giving notification that ~~an~~ the desired input/output unit can be connected to said input/output interface when said determination unit has determined that the input/output unit has not been connected and notifying the user when the system is in a ready state to add the input/output unit.

Claim 2. (Original)

The system according to claim 1, wherein said command input unit is a verification unit for verifying that at least part of a user fee for using the image capture system has been paid.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended)

A method of controlling operation of an image capture system having an image capture unit for capturing image data representing an image, a display unit for displaying the image captured by the image capture unit, and a recording control unit for executing processing for recording the image data, which has been captured by the image capture unit, from a portable recording medium and processing for recording an image represented by the image data, which has been captured by the image capture unit, from a visible recording medium, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a hot-pluggable input/output interface to which an input/output unit can be detachably connected, the input/output unit able to capture said image data from said portable recording medium and said visible recording medium;

detecting whether a use verification command which verifies use of the image capture unit has been applied;

determining upon payment by a user of a predetermined monetary value whether a desired input/output unit from the one or more input/output unit units has been connected to said input/output interface; and

giving notification to the user prior to the payment of the monetary value that one of the one or more input/output units can be added to the system and upon payment of the predetermined monetary value giving notification that input/output of an the image by an the desired input/output unit upon connection ~~connected~~ to said input/output interface is possible when the use verification command has detected and it has been determined that the input/output unit has been connected, and giving notification that ~~an~~ the desired input/output unit can be connected to said input/output interface when it has been determined that the input/output unit has not been connected and notifying the user when the system is in a ready state to add the input/output unit.

Claim 4. (Previously Presented)

The system according to claim 1, further comprising selection means for selecting capturing image data from the image capture unit or capturing image data from the input/output unit when said determination unit has determined that the input/output unit has been connected,

wherein said system captures image data in response to the selection by said selection means.

Claim 5. (Previously Presented)

The system according to claim 1, wherein said notification unit gives notification that an input/output unit can be connected to said input/output interface, regardless of the use verification command given from said command input unit, when said determination unit has determined that the input/output unit has not been connected.

Claim 6. (Previously Presented)

The system according to claim 1, wherein said notification unit displays a sentence of notification on said display unit.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended)

An image capture system having an image capture unit for capturing image data representing an image, a display unit for displaying the image captured by the image capture unit, and a recording control unit for executing processing for recording the image data, which has been captured by the image capture unit, from a portable recording medium and processing for recording an image represented by the image data, which has been captured by the image capture unit, from a visible recording medium, said system comprising:

an input/output unit that is able to capture said image data and output said image data from the visible recording medium;

a hot-pluggable input/output interface to which the input/output unit can be connected;

a command input unit for applying a use verification command which verifies use of the image capture unit;

a determination unit for determining upon payment by a user of a predetermined monetary value whether a desired input/output unit from the one or more input/output unit units has been connected to said input/output interface; and

a notification unit for giving notification to the user prior to the payment of the monetary value that one of the one or more input/output units can be added to the system and upon payment of the predetermined monetary value giving notification that input/output of an the image by an the desired input/output unit upon connection connected to said input/output interface is possible when the use verification command has been applied from said command input unit and said determination unit has determined that the input/output unit has been connected, and for giving notification that ~~an~~ the desired input/output unit can be connected to said input/output interface when said determination unit has determined that the input/output unit has not been connected and notifying the user when the system is in a ready state to add the input/output unit.

Claim 8. (Previously Presented)

The image capture system of claim 1, wherein the input/output unit is able to input image data and output image data.

Claim 9. (Previously Presented)

The method of claim 3, wherein the input/output unit is able to input image data and output image data.